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BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.)

For the Year 1945.

Beverley :

WRIGHT & HOGGARD, PRINTERS, MINSTER PRESS.

1946.

School Clinic,
Lord Roberts Road,
Beverley.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Beverley.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my seventh and last report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough. During the six-and-a-half years I have held the position the work and duties have increased and have necessitated more time than ever before, but the loyalty and efficiency of the Staff of the Health Department has done much to ease the burden, and to them I tender my sincere thanks. I have also appreciated the help of the other Corporation officials and the interest of the members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. C. McKINLAY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1946.

Officers of the Public Health Department of the Council.

There has been no change in the staff of the Department during 1945.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

19 swabs of the nose and throat, 47 specimens of sputum, and 42 other specimens were sent to laboratories at Driffield, Hull and London.

AMBULANCE.

During the year an ambulance was purchased for the town and district, and has once again established itself as an essential feature of the Borough's Health Services. The thanks of the town are due to the Ambulance Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Watts, to the Beverley Division of the East Riding Constabulary under Superintendent Bowler, who administer the service and man it in emergency, and to the voluntary drivers and attendants who place their services at the disposal of the town day and night. Details of the service are as follows:—

Total calls (excluding instructional and service runs)	92
Total mileage for actual calls	880
Mileage on instructional and service runs	146
Longest distance travelled on any one journey	87
No. of drivers on voluntary rota :	
Day	8
Night	10
No. of attendants on voluntary rota :	
Day	9
Night	10

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The Child Welfare Centre is held every Wednesday afternoon, and 229 children attended for the first time, and the total number attending was 482, making a total of 3,517 attendances. Children under five are also seen when necessary at the school children's clinics for minor ailments on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Health Visitors paid 264 first visits, and a total of 2,109 visits. This total of home visits includes, in addition to children under five, visits paid to children boarded out with foster parents, ante-natal and post-natal visits, and visits paid in the course of supervising the work of Home Helps.

The amount of dried milk supplied at cost price to mothers attending the Centre was 4,514lbs.

HOME HELPS.

During the year, our Home Helps attended 32 confinements and acted as domestic helps in 14 cases of illness when not required for confinements. One full-time Help, and part-time Helps varying from 3 to 6 at different periods, were employed. The scheme has worked well and has been extended to include cases other than confinements, but the greatest difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the services of suitable women to act in this capacity. Though a war-time innovation, the scheme will now be an essential part of a permanent health service.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The ante-natal clinic is held every Friday afternoon, and 118 new cases attended, the total attendances being 344. The Dental Surgeon conducted 10 sessions for 31 new cases and 24 old cases, this increase being a result of patient education and the propaganda which follows good results in other cases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 4 cases of Diphtheria in 1945. Two of these were in adults, and the other two were in school-children, members of the same family. One child had been immunised in 1941, and the other had not completed a course of immunisation. Both were very mild cases and made rapid and complete recovery.

218 children between one and fifteen years of age were immunised against Diphtheria and 145 against Whooping Cough during the year.

There has been a further reduction in the incidence of Scabies and other forms of infestation, due largely to the keen following-up and treatment carried out by the Nursing Staff at the School Clinic.

Venereal Diseases. Separate figures for the Borough are not available, but the total number of new cases diagnosed amongst East Riding residents declined from 231 in 1944 to 187 in 1945.

Special attention has been given to premature babies, which constitute a large part of the problem of neo-natal mortality. These babies are admitted to the Emergency Hospital for special treatment, and we are at once informed when they are sent home, and special attention is given by the Health Visitors to see that the necessary extra care is given to them.

Illegitimate births continue to be a pressing social problem. There were 15 such cases among residents in the Borough in 1945, of which 3 were stillborn and 1 died of Acute Gastro-Enteritis. Of the remainder, 9 are living with the mother or other relative and 2 have left the district and contact has been lost. The Health Visitors, sometimes in conjunction with the East Riding County Council Welfare Officer, keep these children and their mothers under special observation.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	13	3	8
Diphtheria	4	3	Nil
Cerebro-spinal			
Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia	4	1	Nil
Erysipelas	6	Nil	Nil
Phemphigus	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	12	6	Nil
Measles	352	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	36	Nil	Nil

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery	1	Nil	Nil
Para Typhoid	Nil	Nil	Nil
Malaria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scabies	8	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis	Nil	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 11 male and 5 female new cases, as against 5 male and 3 female new cases in 1944. 5 male and 3 female cases died during the year. There were 2 male and 2 female non-pulmonary cases with 2 male and 2 female deaths, during the same period.

TUBERCULOSIS GRANTS (Beverley Borough Residents).

Number of persons receiving grants at the beginning of 1945	3
Number receiving grants at the end of 1945	4
Number of new cases who received grants during the year	4
Number in receipt of grants who returned to work ...	—
Number in receipt of grants who died during the year	1
Number in receipt of grants who were still unable to work	6

It will be noted that the warning against undue optimism over the reduction of new cases in 1944 has been justified, and this year's increase is some indication of the lowered resistance of the population after the strain of six years of war. It appears, from the figures given above, that the limited object of the Tuberculosis Grant, which is to encourage the sufferer from Pulmonary Tuberculosis to persevere with treatment when there is a prospect of return to work, has not yet been achieved.

War-time Nursery.

During the year the Ministry of Health gave notice that the 100% grant for the Nursery was to be discontinued. It was felt that the financial burden was too great for a small Authority to bear, and with great reluctance, in view of the outstanding contribution made towards better health among the child community, the

Nursery was closed. It is interesting to note that at one infant school the only entrants above the average in nutrition were children who had attended the Nursery, a fact not known to the examiner at the time of classification. It is some satisfaction that the Nursery has been re-opened as a Nursery Class.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1945.

In July the Additional Sanitary Inspector left the district and no applications were received for the advertised post. During the remainder of the year it was only with difficulty that the Senior Sanitary Inspector carried out even urgent matters and little routine work was able to be dealt with.

1. WATER.

24 samples of the Beverley and Hull water supplies were taken. They showed the water supplies to the public to be satisfactory. 5 samples of water were taken from pumps. 1 sample was found to be unsatisfactory and town's water was laid on to the property served by the pump. In addition, 32 visits have been made to dwelling-houses with regard to the provision of an adequate water supply.

2. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The position with regard to Sanitary Accommodation in the town at the end of the year was:—

Type of Convenience.	Number.	Percentage.
Water Closets	3759	... 84.1
Privies	208	... 4.7
Pail Closets	501	... 11.2

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year 4,209 loads of refuse have been collected from private dwelling-houses and business premises in the town, corresponding to an estimated weight of 5,234 tons. The total cost of refuse collection and disposal, including salvage, was £3,501. All the refuse in the town, other than that salvaged, was disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Paper, scrap metal, glass, bones, rags, waste food and other items were collected as salvage during the year. To the year ending 31st March, 1946, 108 tons were salvaged and sold for £855.

4. INSPECTION OF THE AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

433 visits and 710 re-visits have been made under the Public Health Act. 14 Formal and 167 Informal Notices have been served and 240 Nuisances abated. 16 dwelling-houses and 2 common lodging houses have been disinfested for vermin during the year. No houses have been dealt with under the repair sections of the Housing Act.

The housing programme is still in abeyance, due to the war, no Demolition Orders, Clearance Orders or Closing Orders being made during the year. Houses which would otherwise have been demolished are now having to be maintained in a reasonable condition by having essential work carried out.

Cases of overcrowding during the year were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors and in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Housing Manager a number of overcrowding nuisances were abated. There still remain cases of overcrowding which cannot be dealt with on account of the housing shortage.

During the year 75 prefabricated houses were erected and occupied. In addition, there were 36 Private houses and 40 Council houses in the course of erection at the end of the year.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

22 visits have been made and 11 houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1,344 beasts, 583 calves, 5,776 sheep and 232 pigs were slaughtered at the Government Slaughter-house during the year. This has been visited daily by the Meat Inspectors for the purpose of meat inspection, 328 visits having been paid. In addition, 35 horses were inspected.

55 visits were made to premises other than the Government Slaughter-house for the purpose of inspecting food.

47 visits have been made to premises where food is prepared or stored for sale. 2 informal notices have been served and 2 complied with.

7. FACTORIES.

12 inspections of factories were made during the year. 2 Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were granted, and other works carried out.

8. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

A Rodent Operative was engaged in August who was trained in the Ministry of Food's methods of rodent control. A thorough survey of the town was carried out and it was revealed that there were 4 major infestations, 103 minor infestations and 1 reservoir infestation. Towards the end of the year the "Action Stage" was commenced, the work being carried out in all cases on the Block principle.

Before the Rodent Operative was engaged 146 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors with an estimated kill of 89 rats; and on the "Action Stage," an estimated kill of 615 rats was obtained.

9. SHOPS ACTS. 4 visits and 2 re-visits have been made.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Total. M. F.

Live Births:—

Legitimate ...	226	114	112	Birth rate per 1,000
Illegitimate ..	22	10	12	of the estimated
				resident population 18·0

Still Births:—

Legitimate ...	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 total
Illegitimate ..	4	2	2	(live and still)
				births 38·8

Deaths	198	100	98	Death rate per 1,000
				of the estimated
				resident population 14·4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	24·2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17·7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	91·0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Death Rate, England and Wales	11·4
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16·1
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales	46·0